

Camacho, Rudy

From: Sarah Lippek <slippe@neomailbox.ch>
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015 4:28 AM
To: PRC; Rod.Dembowski@kingcounty.gov; larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov; Phillips, Larry; Dave.Upthegrove@kingcounty.gov; Hague, Jane; Peter.vonReichbauer@kingcounty.gov; Joe.McDermott@kingcounty.gov; Reagan.Dunn@kingcounty.gov; Constantine, Dow
Subject: Requesting the denial of ALL permits for project No. 3020845.

Good morning:

As a Seattle native, a voter, and an attorney, I urge you to refuse the Master Use Permit for Project No. 3020845.

The environmental review has shown that the location is contaminated with toxins, and it is utterly unconscionable to force children onto a contaminated site. Further, the entire purpose of the facility is barbaric and unethical. You will find yourself standing on the wrong side of history if you abet the construction of the so-called 'Children and Family Justice Center.'

The era of mass incarceration in the United States is coming to an end - and it cannot happen soon enough. There are many seemingly well-intentioned policies that allow us to imprison our children; our people of color; our homeless people; our neighbors with mental health issues. These policies, and the bodies that promulgated them, are being internationally recognized as unethical and immoral.

The United States is among the last few nations that executes children. The State of Washington is the foremost jailer of children for 'status offenses' - non-criminal matters as trivial as arriving home after curfew or forgetting to take out the trash. King County, and the City of Seattle, are both currently funding and/or operating multiple poorly-supervised, mismanaged youth facilities where abuse of children is a serious problem.

Despite 'good intentions,' existing facilities still engage in the use of solitary confinement; chemical restraints; dangerous restraint holds; and other practices condemned under international human rights law. Further, poor monitoring, bad staffing policies, and insufficient PREA implementation allow serious sexual predation of children by staff members.

After decades under the 'Becca' laws and a host of 'zero tolerance' measures in our schools and on our streets, we have not seen decreased truancy. Or child abuse. Or youth homelessness. Instead, we have seen a terrible escalation into increased incarceration; racial profiling and targeting; abysmal mental health outcomes; and the deeply disturbing conflation of coercive/abusive carceral methodologies with 'social service' and 'family support.' This is wrong, and it must not be tolerated in any society that claims itself to be free or just.

Do not commit yourself to injustice. Do not insist on the endless repetition of failed projects that are destroying the credibility and character of our community. We cannot imprison children and call ourselves decent people. We must stop, and we must stop now. You must do your part, and you must do it now - or face the judgment of future voters, future courts, and future historians.

The Department of Planning and Development should not allow King County to build another jail for children -even if it's speciously called a 'justice center.' Please, do the right thing: Deny all permits for project #3020845.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sarah Lippek

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